

NTCI Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Executive School Council

Jane Lewis, Co-Chair
Teodora Miloradovic, Co-Chair
Charlotte Ryan, Treasurer
Marion Flanagan, Secretary
Phyllis Cincinatus and Elaine Lurie, Event Coordinators
Lapfong Wong, Ward Rep
Pauline Thompson, Speaker Coordinator
Lucia Dell'Agnese, Member at Large
Heather Johnston, Member at Large

School Staff

Joel Gorenkoff, NTCI Principal
Mary Laszlo, Vice-Principal (A-L)
Kathleen Pyper, Vice-Principal (M-Z)
Lorne Smith, Teacher representative

1. Welcome - Parent Council Co-Chair Jane Lewis

- Opened the meeting and welcomed all present parents and speakers.

2. Guest Speaker –Trustee Shelley Laskin

- She attended the 100th Anniversary on the weekend and enjoyed it thoroughly
- Visit her page on the TDSB website to sign up for her weekly newsletter
- Currently dealing with balancing the budget, have detail on website of what the cuts will be required
- Next ward meeting will be on May 31 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at NTCI and will discuss the 2012/2012 TDSB Budget
- 19 outstanding TDSB staff were honoured at the 3rd Annual TDSB Excellence Awards
- TDSB released a research report that proves there is a correlation between nutrition and improved education performance – they will be using this to attempt to get more funding for breakfast programs
- Ministry of Education has released new guidelines for school fundraising
- Ministry of Education has created grants to provide funding to help increase parent engagement – the Parents Reaching Out grants can provide up to \$1000 to support such things as guest speakers and community BBQs – have until June 8 to apply
- on May 22nd at 7:00 p.m., Dr. Alex Russell will be speaking at Humewood School about the value of allowing your kids to make mistakes and learn from them

3. What's Happening at NT? - Principal's Report – Joel Gorenkoff

- Last week's 100th Anniversary celebration was magical and reminded him of the high level of spirit the school has now and had had over many years

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- A 101 year-old teacher came back for the anniversary and received a standing ovation from alumni
- Mr. Smith has returned to the council meetings as the staff representative following his knee surgery. He will be retiring at the end of the school year, so this is his last meeting.

Report from Kathleen Pyper – Vice Principal

- EQAO tests will be held on June 4/5 for Grade 9 Math - school will start at 10:00 a.m. on those days for the rest of the students
- June 12/13 are the last days of classes for the school year
- on June 25 students are encouraged to visit their subject teachers to receive and discuss their final marks
- Exam schedule is out and posted outside the office

Report from Mary Laszlo – Vice Principal

- Enjoyed the musical performances at the 100th anniversary

Report from Mr. Smith – Teacher representative

- Was pleased to see so many of his past students at the 100th Anniversary
- Stressed that parents encourage their students to keep working hard even if the weather is nice. The Grade 12 students especially need to work right through to the end of the year

4. Treasurer's Report and Financial Requests – Charlotte Ryan

- The financial report is available on the back of the agenda sheet.
- The council has received a thank you letter from the Outdoor Club for equipment purchased with the support of the parent council.
- There are three new requests:
 1. Computer Science Club is going to competition in the U.S. Five students will be travelling to Pittsburgh and are asking for a subsidy of \$750.
 2. NT Varsity Hockey Team requests funds toward the purchase of new jerseys. The uniforms will stay at the school and will be passed on. The cost for 20 jerseys is \$850.
 3. Lighting for Auditorium – each year the students rent special lights for use in the Fashion Show fundraiser. They would like to purchase some of these lights and have them permanently installed to avoid this cost and use in other school performances. They have asked for \$7500 and the council executive has agreed to fund \$6000.
 4. Each year an event is held for convocation in October. The council would like to have the \$2800 that the council has regularly spent for a reception approved at this

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meeting since we won't have a chance to ask for the money before the event occurs in the fall.

All requests were motioned by Jane Lewis, seconded by Teodora Miloradovic and accepted by all.

5. Special Topic – Technology in the NT Classroom

- NTCI was the first school to have completely wireless coverage for the internet. The school ensures the students know what proper uses are for this internet service: it must be used only for educational purposes, used responsibly and respectfully or they will not be allowed to use it.
- Brian Roche: Moodle is a course management system that is offered for free. Only students in the specified class have access to the materials posted there. Doesn't replace the need for a teacher, but supports this role. Can upload assignments, post the course calendar, field trip information, and the teacher can grade assignments all with no need to know each other's email addresses.
- Katie Wilson uses Moodle Quiz Tools to allow students to practice multiple choice questions and collects assignments using Turn It In. Checks whether the references have been listed properly and tests content for originality (scans paper and checks against other papers and sources on internet). She encourages students to use Google Docs for collaboration. Glogster can be used to create a poster online and allows the use of sound as well. Audacity allows you to record your voice and turn it into a MP3. Students can record their exam notes and play them on iPod.
- Rob O'Connell: Gizmos used to provide a virtual science lab so students can practice before doing the lab in real life. It allows students to progress at their own pace and explore different options. Can post student guides and test questions here too.
- Alex Stamp: Uses Facebook for teaching French and Drama. He created a separate teacher profile for this work. Makes accommodation for students not using Facebook. Asks students to vote on whether they understood what was taught that week or what they liked the most. Posts their homework, videos to explain course content and have them create on-line presentations and posts photo of work completed.

Thanks were given to the parents and guest speakers and the meeting was closed.

This is the last meeting of the 2011-12 school year and we look forward to seeing you in September.